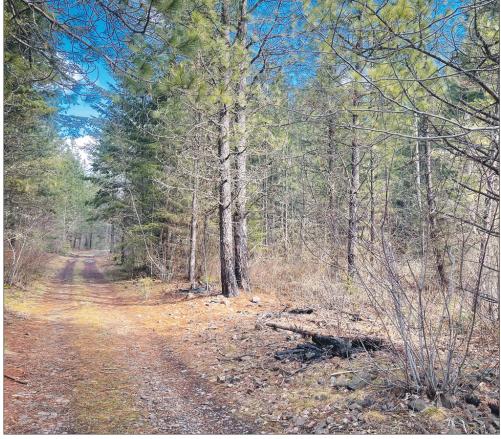
HARES

Continued from Page BI

A gated road sliced through the middle of the cover, which made much of the walking and cover inspection easy, but passing the one-hour mark with no hare sign led to complacency. The camera came out and my careful scrutiny of the landscape for the brilliant white furballs became ancillary to the beauty of golden sun streaming through dark timber and loosening the morning's frosty grip on the forest.

Emerald moss and lowgrowing bunchgrasses covered crumbling basalt slopes in a smooth blanket beneath the shade of drooping serviceberry and firs. As I marveled over the soft greens and textures of early spring, I stepped into the brush to inspect a snowy patch for hare tracks. Starbursts of sunlight glistened through water droplets which had formed on the branches of a downed, decaying hawthorn. The water droplets hung delicately from the most intricate seafoam-tinted lichens I had ever seen. The stunning colors held my attention and camera focus as Doug and Bob move on.

A short distance ahead, Bob stepped into the brush,



Brad Trumbo/Contributed Photo

Thick shrubbery, ferns, and briars beneath scattered firs offers good opportunity to pursue snowshoe hares.

walking a line through the thicket where raspberry, rose and ferns created a dense ground covering. As I stopped to photograph an intriguing wetland pool, the faint "click" of a gun safety and quiet profanity drifted back from Bob's position. Simultaneously, a snow-white hare bounced

across the trail directly between Doug and I, who were left staring at one another in disbelief.

The hare slipped neatly into the brush and disappeared from my view with Doug immediately sliding into the cover between firs. I back-tracked to find an opening to flank the hare

and parallel Doug, which may have spurred the hare to turn in Doug's direction. The bark of his Ithaca .410 single-shot was louder than I expected within the tight fir canopy, and with my ears ringing, I spied him emerge from the undergrowth with the exquisite young hare.

"It took me a moment

to figure out why the snow was moving," Bob said with a laugh as he emerged from the briars and ferns. Had the hare not run between Doug and I, it may have been Bob's bunny.

We marveled over the silky softness of the hare's winter coat, and poked fun at its comically large hind feet. A critter well equipped to thrive in deep snow and evade predators like Canada lynx, bobcats, and coyotes.

"Your turn to flush 'em out," Bob said to Doug, who happily jumped into the next brushy patch.

Doug moved quickly to the toe of the slope to his left and the sudden discharge of his shotgun followed. The second hare sat conspicuously beneath a fir just above head height on the slope as Doug approached, rewarding him for being at the right place and time. This hare was larger and more striking than the first.

The farther we hiked, the better the habitat looked, but to our surprise we encountered no more hares. I found it ironic that we were surprised by not finding hares in the better habitat, given our earlier surprise in finding hares at all. But experienced hunters have a keen sense for knowing when an area "looks good," and if only

subconsciously, we expect to find to our prey where it belongs.

The hike back to the truck was less about hunting and more about savoring the moment and setting. We rode the high of a beautiful mountain morning, good company, a successful hunt, and the increasingly high sun angle tickling our natural senses to the fact that we were on the forefront of spring. Lighthearted conversation included the possible meals the hares would serve Doug and his lady Angela later that evening, and tentative plans were made for hunting the last Sunday of

As we parted ways to return to our individual realities, I took a moment to give thanks for the camaraderie, a new hunting experience, and the public lands that made it possible. I left my pursuits of furry small game in my Appalachian youth, but this morning reinvigorated my interest in the challenge and delectable table fare of hunting Blue Mountain hares.

the season.

Brad Trumbo is a fish and wildlife biologist and outdoor writer in Waitsburg, Washington. For tips and tales of outdoor pursuits and conservation, visit www.bradtrumbo.com.

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SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- How you

interpret the day's events will make a big dif-

way you've done things in the past can be

your mind back and you'll come upon a time

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- You can

serve others well today without doing any-

by Stella Wilder

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Use your need is not yet available to you, but you

time as you would under normal circum- mustn't lose sight of it in your mind's eye as

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Slow and combined with one or two exciting new meth-

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- That which that figures prominently in your affairs right

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- You have thing to threaten your progress. You have

On-Line:

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022

YOUR BIRTHDAY by Stella Wilder

ing attention to yourself through the repeated while.

even you, have gotten used to your accom-

more than ever before.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

routine moment something special.

surprise encounter opens your eyes.

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HOROSCOPES

thing of a splash when you are young, attract- stances will be anything but normal -- for a

close to you may be swept up in your journey may have to be checked and double-checked

things" make a big difference to you today, but ing everything to come your way today, but

you may not be aware of all the effects until a what you do get your hands on excites you.

of discovery today. Together, you can make a before you include it in your routine.

notoriety later on, when other people, and ring is there for you to claim!

Born today, you are likely to make some- stances today, but know that the circum- you get busy with today's many tasks.

demonstration of certain highly regarded GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- You mustn't ference today -- not only to you, but also to

will be matching your early successes and reaching for what you want today. That gold SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- The

plishments and you struggle to prove that steady may not win the race today, but it ods -- and the results may surprise even you.

you're capable of reaching farther and doing allows you to see things for what they are and CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Cast

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- The "little" asked for a great deal, and you're not expectenough time and resources to do it all for now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- What you

enjoy the progress you make step by step.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Someone comes to you through unexpected channels now, but in a subtle and unusual way.

skills -- and the trick, for the rest of your life, let a past bout of uncertainty keep you from those who have allied themselves with you.

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110 Announcements

110 Announcements

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110 Announcements

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Lefty's Tap House

Haines Sell-Rite

Salvation Army

Baker City Fire Dept.

Dollar Tree

Ryder Bros

Main Event

Idle Hour

VFW

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES* IDAHO

114 Self-Help **Group Meetings**

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS 541-805-2229

neo-na.org

AA MEETINGS

Wednesday Nights, 7-8:15pm.

Fort Union Grange Hall, corner of McAlister & Gekeler Lanes. For more info, call 541-786-1222

AL-ANON Keep Coming Back Family Group Mondays, 7 pm

at NKWest, 1208 Adams, La Grande, OR

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Monday, Thursday, & Friday at 8pm. Episcopal Church 2177 First St.

Baker City Check out our classified ads.

DO YOU HAVE....HURTS, HABITS and/or HANG UPS? 12 Step Biblical Support

Harvest Church 3720 Birch St. Baker City Thurs., 6:30 - 8:30 PM

LA GRANDE **GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS** Every Friday Night @ 5pm, 2107 Gekeler Ln, LG, Church of Christ basement. For more info please

call 971-219-8411 Someone's drinking a problem?
AL-ANON Meetings

are available by phone Info for Baker City Meetings Call: 541-239-7323

CELEBRATE RECOVERY Calvary Baptist Church Third & Broadway Baker City, OR **EVERY THURSDAY**

6:15 - 8:00 PM **AL-ANON** Attitude of Gratitude.

Wednesdays, 12:15-1:30pm. Faith Lutheran Church. 12th & Gekeler, La Grande Please wear a mask & practice social distancing 541-786-2051

Goin' Straight Group Meetings: Mon., Tues. Thurs. & Fri.

Start at 8 PM

Episcopal Church Basement

2177 1st Street, Baker City

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Drug Problem? We can help! Narcotics Anonymous Phone: 541-805-2229

DEADLINES: LINE ADS: Tuesday: 8:30am Monday

Γhursday: 8:30 am Wednesday Saturday: 8:30 am Friday **DISPLAY ADS:**

2 Days Prior to

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VISA

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114 Self-Help

Group Meetings

Would you like to stop compúlsive eating? For Information Call 541-523-5128 Leave a Message Email: ecapoa@live.com

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP Support for family & friends of Alcoholics Tuesday evenings; 6-7pm Joseph Methodist Church (basement on northside)

Joseph, OR Contact 541-398-1398 **WALLOWA COUNTY**

AA MEETINGS

Enterprise

MONDAYS • Enterprise Group 7:00 pm Closed Meeting 113.5 E Main St.

TUESDAYS • Enterprise Group 7 - 8:00 pm (Bia Bk Study) 113.5 E Main St

<u>WEDNESDAYS</u> Enterprise Group 7:00 pm Closed Meeting 113.5 E Main St.

THURSDAYS Enterprise Group 7:00 pm

113.5 E Main St. **FRIDAYS** Enterprise Group

7:00 pm Closed Meeting 113.5 E Main St.

SATURDAYS Enterprise Group 7:00 pm

113.5 E Main St.

City of Joseph **WEDNESDAYS**

 Buck Stops Here Joseph United Methodist Church, 12 pm 301 S. Lake St., Joseph (Church Basement)

THURSDAYS • Grace and Dignity *(WM) Joseph United Methodist Church, 12 pm 301 S Lake St., Joseph (Church Basement)

SATURDAYS Buck Stops Here Joseph United Methodist Church, 12 pm 301 S. Lake St., Joseph (Church Basement)

Questions call AA Hotline: 541-624-5117 www.oregonaadistrict29.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022 ROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

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- donna Border
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- greeting Shoestrings 14 Mean, briefly 15 Liquid metal
- Witch-hunt locale
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45

6 Yours truly 8 Relieves

Answer to Previous Puzzle



CEDE DEWS © 2022 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel for UFS

- 9 Vestibules 10 Twilight, to a
- poet 11 Paramount

35

56

- rival
- 16 Playbill listing
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 - 52 Tinv bit 55 Roast beef —

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- Narrow shelf **DeGeneres**
- 46 Football gear
- 48 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
- 51 Pooh's pal

range 20 Like a pancake 22 Prefix for wave crasher 25 White heron





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